

1968

Linda MURRAY  
122 Fryer St.  
Amherstburg, Ontario  
N9V 2L7

January 26, 1993

Golden Honeymoon Memories  
P.O. Box 270  
Niagara Falls, Ontario  
L2E 6T6

Dear Sir/Madam;

In reply to an advertisement featured in the Windsor Star regarding the Niagara Falls Review campaign to let everyone know Niagara Falls is still the "Honeymoon Capital", please accept the attached as my entry in the contest you are sponsoring.

Yours truly,

*Linda Murray*  
Linda MURRAY

Attachment

## Golden Honeymoon Memories

It will be 25 years ago this summer that my husband and I visited Niagara Falls, the "Honeymoon Capital", as honeymooners, newlyweds, young, naive, full of promise and hope for a wonderful life together. Oh yes, we've returned to the falls over the years, on several occasions with our children, and more recently with oldtimers hockey, but our honeymoon trip was the most memorable.

Our wedding day, August 31st, 1968, was an absolutely beautiful day, and everything went as planned. If only we had put forth as much effort into planning our honeymoon, our first few days as husband and wife would surely have been off to a, shall we say, less stressful start!

The long awaited "honeymoon" was to take us on a motor trip, first to Niagara Falls for a few relaxing days, then eastward to Kingston, the Thousand Islands, and, oh yes, let's not forget Montreal and what was left of Expo 67, now called Man and His World. A gruelling undertaking for completely inexperienced travellers to endure and only one week with which to complete this marathon, but we were newlyweds after all.

We spent our wedding night in Windsor, reservations had been made well in advance, and my husband assured me he had requested the "bridal suite" (maybe my expectations were too high, but it seemed nothing more than a regular motel room), ah but we were newlyweds, husband and wife, alone together, and after a good night's sleep, we attended church services on Sunday morning, had a lovely brunch and so with the anticipation of a perfectly wonderful honeymoon we headed east to Niagara Falls, the "Honeymoon Capital".

Our first mistake, however, as we were soon to discover, was embarking on this journey without even thinking to make motel reservations. I'm sure the fact that this was the Labour Day weekend, probably one of the busiest travel weekends in not only Ontario, but all of Canada and the U.S. as well, had some bearing on the problems we would encounter.

We arrived at the falls early evening, September 1st, and after a leisurely drive along the water (you could do nothing more, traffic was bumper to bumper, moving at a snail's pace and no where to park) we thought it best to find a room before doing any further sightseeing. This was not an easy task, as we soon discovered. It seems the whole world had descended upon Niagara Falls this particular weekend, there was not a vacancy to be found, anywhere! I know how Mary and Joseph felt when they were told there was no room at the inn.

It was evident our efforts were futile, we would have to alter our itinerary. Disappointed, yes; defeated, no. The "Honeymoon Capital" would have to wait, we would continue our journey and return to the falls at the end of the week - this time with confirmed reservations.

And so we departed, leaving the bright lights of the city, and the mist from the falls behind us with the intention of finding a motel room elsewhere, a place to unwind from a long day and to rest up for an early start the next day to continue our journey eastward to Kingston and beyond. Only now we were faced with the lights of flashing neon signs, blinking on and off, "NO VACANCY", "NO VACANCY". But alas, Hog Town was hospitable, we found accommodations in Toronto, a welcome sign, we were exhausted. We would get a good nights sleep and start fresh in the morning, it would be Monday already, where was the time going?

Monday morning arrived very early, there was no need for our requested wake-up call or was this what's considered a wake-up call? An employee of the hotel (presumably) entered our room much to our surprise and hers, 6:30 A.M. - we did want an early start!

The remainder of our honeymoon was, for the most part, uneventful. We had a wonderful time in both Kingston and Old Port Henry, Gananoque and the Thousand Islands. Montreal, however, proved to be another real challenge and mistake number two was realized here. We should not have let our best friend insist we use his new car for the honeymoon! Our nerves surely were put to the test here and so was our marriage. Husband and wife, we discovered, are not compatible in the same vehicle when lost in heavy traffic and not a sign in English. But after travelling in circles, and a number of wrong turns, and with a bit of luck, we managed to find our way, the car had been spared as well. We located a motel close to Man and His World and decided it best to leave the car and travel by taxi - much less stressful.

Time had flown by, it was now Friday, and having seen what we came to see, we departed Montreal and headed back to what was our first planned destination, Niagara Falls, the "Honeymoon Capital". This time nothing could go amiss, we had confirmed reservations.

We spent our weekend in Niagara Falls at the Sheraton Foxhead. The room was beautiful with an absolutely breathtaking view of the falls. This indeed was the highlight of our honeymoon, barring the phone call home to wish my brother the best. You see he was leaving home to attend university the next day - the family was having a party without me! My husband now had to contend with an emotional wife, crying her heart out, homesick. He did manage to console me, dried the tears, and we continued the honeymoon as if we were the only two people in the "Honeymoon Capital".

And so this was the beginning of our first 25 years together. In a very short week we shared joy, laughter, disappointment, tears, but most of all we shared love, a love that continues to grow with each passing day. And now as we prepare to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary, we plan to again return to Niagara Falls, the "Honeymoon Capital" to share a renewed commitment to each other, to maybe capture some of our youth, and to turn the page and begin a new chapter in our lives, one that will take us to what will truly become our golden memories.

Submitted by: Linda MURRAY  
122 Fryer St.  
Amherstburg, Ontario  
N9V 2L7  
  
Ph: (519) 736-3441